LEIGHTON LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

22 JULY 2013

MOTION ON BEES

Background

In light of the recently published State of Nature Report and the fact that bee populations have halved in the last twenty years, Friends of the Earthhave called for a national 'Bee Action Plan' to complement the local campaign 'Keep the Buzz in Leighton Buzzard' which declares Leighton Buzzard a BeeFriendly Town and is actively supported by Andrew Selous MP.

To support this motion Leighton-LinsladeTown Council will:

- Ensure that where suitable, all planting and management undertaken within the parks, green spaces and gardens owned by the Council will support bees and other pollinating insects' lifestyles and also, where possible, suitable areas will be managed to support the nesting and hibernation of bees.Planting new perennial schemes with nectar rich plants and planting specific 'Bee Beds'.

- Encourage a greater quantity of sensitively managed parkland and incorporating native wild flowers into these areas. To create new wildflower areas and wildlife friendly areas, with native seeds.

- Allow grassed areas that are more sensitively managed, to allow some areas of grass to grow longer allowing plants such as daisies, dandelions and clover to set flower/ seed and/ or leaving areas of wild grass uncut to support nesting and hibernation, such as a metre strip by walls and   fences.

- Reduce the use of pesticides in managing the environment.

- Preserve and enhance "bee friendly" habitat.

Update
The Town Council has already adopted or is in the process of adopting much of the abovementioned regime as part Anglia in Bloom, as environmental issues such as conservation and biodiversity play a large partof the campaign. None of the points raised above have a negative impact on time or money and is only a matter of making different choices.

Recommendation: To adopt the 'Bee Action Plan' and support Friends of the Earth with the cause.

Report Author:
Lisa Jarvis. Senior Operations and Administration Manager.